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along chord lines is not systematically carried out; and finally that, in the endeavor to obtain new material, too much of the old familiar type, "which every child should know," has been crowded out. However just these criticisms may be, it is certain that the series as a whole is one that can be safely recommended highly for home and general use and that it is one which every supervisor should examine. For the increasing body of independent supervisors who wish to plan their own courses and to draw their material from various sources this series with proper rearrangements and additions will be found to be of great value.

P. W. DYKEMA

THE ETHICAL CULTURE SCHOOL
NEW YORK CITY

Practical Elementary Algebra. By JOS. V. COLLINS. New York: American Book Co., 1908. Pp. 420. \$1.00.

Dr. Collins' book makes its chief claim to the title "Practical" by the elimination of difficult problems and unnecessary definitions and by the introduction of applications. These cover a varied range but are uneven in difficulty and often merely arithmetical (p. 121, "What number is 2 more than x ?" P. 245, "What is the cost of 8,956 lbs. of coal at \$3.50 a ton?"). In its handling of the equation the book is a disappointment. Rules are mechanical and sometimes misleading: p. 61, "Find x , by dividing the right member of the equation by the coefficient of x ." Sixty pages later the axioms of equality make their first appearance!

Chap. xvii, "Discussion of the Fundamental Principles of Algebra," suffers from lack of illustrations. Here equivalent equations are explained for the first time and here in a single page is the entire theory of quadratic equations.

The historical notes scattered through the text, Tartaglia's solution of the cubic, Briggs' introduction to Napier and his logarithms, etc., quicken the interest of the student and refresh the memory of the teacher. Their introduction is a step in the right direction.

THIRMUTHIS A. BROOKMAN

THE HIGH SCHOOL
BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

Elements of Physics. By GEORGE A. HOADLEY. New York: American Book Co. 1908. Pp. 464. \$1.20.

This later book from the pen of Professor Hoadley is smaller than his previous work, *A Brief Course in Physics*, the laboratory experiments being omitted in the later text. The book is compact, pleasing in appearance, and well printed. The text is to be commended for the numerous diagrams that help in teaching physics, although some of the diagrams might have been lettered more liberally. Other features that make the book one to be desired by teachers are the many well-chosen problems, the collection of formulae at the end of the text, and the numerous experiments for classroom demonstration. An excellent chapter is given on the topics of wireless telegraphy and the